3/1/72

Dear Howard,

Before going to DC this a.m. I got the mail and before leaving for DC, when I had to wait for something, I read your letter or Jerry and of analysis, the one with the clip of the new old Bishop and the old new Nixon column. We are probably going to go to bed early, so, from recollection, there is one thing to which I want to respond (aside from your analysis, which is getting into the right track).

You do not know the entire contents of the Wash Post file. You do not know Jerry's reaction to what he selected. I didn't watch what he went through or what he took. You do not know what he said then and after. The last time he phoned, which was long agao, before he got my comments on his picnic, when the subject came up, I raised the question of that footnote handling in response. I asked him who decided to leave it in. He told me Harris. True. So, I asked him to explain what, knowing this, he had written. I dropped it there, without any serious response from him. I do not understand it and because of other things at this point I am not taking the time to try. I will not make any further comment to him on what he has written. If he sends me a copy of any revision and asks I will not. I have unselfish reasons for this. Now superficially, what you say is reasonable. In the context of the entire file, it can't stand. I have a long, long and painful history with the Post. Their hatred for me is because of what they did and knowingly did. I was there today for otherreasons. Dick Harwood came up and gave me a friendly greeting. Ben Bradlee walked past without noticing me. I am not going to go into all these details, for I don't care that much. But I had a good friend whose office was inthe same room as Wolff's, and I went there often to see this old friend, Jill knew Wolff's secretary well. She discussed the book with her as he read it. He doesn't know she told me about this, but I got from her more excitement than I got from him. He did read all the book or he said to me, and I think it the former, for he went into details and answered my prior self-criticism of it. Now this is something that hangs on my word, plus the contemporaneous notes that serve no function as lies or exaggerations. They are not of the Post alone. When Jerry first started talking in what I regarded as a strange way, I gave him an independent means of getting an appraisal. If he has or hasn't, he has not reported and I don't care if he has or hasn't or what he winds up doing. I'll make no effort to influence it. I regard what he did as worse than dishonest. I regard this as entirely out of character. I think I have some understabding of why. I do not pretend that I believe it is all. But in all this there is a touchstone, and my recollection is that jerry didn't really press it. I did write Wolff in 1966, Jerry did write Wolff about that letter, I did send an original copy to Leonard asking that it be forwarded to Wolff, and it bears me out pretty well. There is a touchstone you have in this, comparing this part of his thing with the rest. I do not think the treatments are the same. And if you do not know it, Jerry began with the intention of doing only what the Times did to Frame-Up. He is going to have to sort things out for himself, put himself together for himself, live with his own judgements and errors, and he is going to have to plumb his own mind, emotions and reactions without further suggestion from me. Time is one but not the only reason. In subtle ways I have tried to point him toward full and full emotional maturity. I don't want to fight with him and I will avoid it. I am very fond of him. I have got told Lil of what he wrote for she would be unforgiving. It is susceptible of partial quation that will be defamation. Except for his expression of resentment over my letter about the carbon, I have not since heard from him. When it seemed appropriate, I put little notes in an envelope and I have mailed him several without response. I am writing Graham and I am not sending him a copy. I did not send him a copy of the parts of the tapes I transcribed and sent you a copy. He has not sent me a copy of the Weeky appearance on Long John, and I don't really care, because aside from having it as a matter of record it is without value to me. He has, unsolicitedly, promised it to others who are doing nothing about this. I am satisfied I know part of the reason for this. It is something I cannot address and would not if I felt I could....No surgery on my thumb now. X-Rays show bones only and they are ok. Scar tissue will take at least three more months to reduce to normal or enough for another examination by the ortho surgeon, so I am to see him then. Until then, it is strong enough for normal use but it will be stiff and uncomfortable. Abother reason for not wasting time. Too much to do. The one thing I do know is that the tendon seems okay. Best, H